

**Loudoun County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee
Wednesday, June 10, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**

Chair - Sharon Tropf

Immediate Past Chair- Dr. Carol Williams-Nickelson

Vice Chair - Planning Shehnaz Khan

Vice Chair - Membership Heidi Bunkua

Vice Chair - Communications Craig Metz

Secretary - Kathryn Rosenbrook

Attendees: A quorum of SEAC voting members was confirmed by role call by the Vice Chair of Planning with 11 out of 16 members present.

I. Welcome and Introduction.

- Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. Public Comments.

- No comments.

III. Reports and Updates.

A. Chair.

- 11 SEAC members participated in the Sprint 3 Focus Group. SPED Concerns shared there are no options for students coming back into the Fall. Governor Northam has entered into Phase II.
- SEAC Policy Committee met on June 6 to review proposed Policy 5310: Special Education. Reviewing in meeting with full SEAC.
- *Upcoming Events:*
 - SEAC Excellence in Special Education Awards shared on all social media. Planning on sharing SEAC Award Recipients Recognition via a slide show tribute potentially in the September 16, 2020
 - Working on Annual SEAC Survey. Questions were sent to Dr. Nelson on school closures for review. Looking to be published in June 2020 in two languages (English and Spanish).
 - SEAC Board Elections were delayed until October 2020
 - SEAC By-Laws Review and Amendments projected for October 2020
 - Plan on conducting PTA/PTO membership training virtually on 9/9/2020.

B. Parent Resource Services.

- Virtual Workshops and Information:
 - Tips for How to Support Behavior for Learning at Home.
 - Helping Parents Understand and Navigate Specialized Reading Resources for Distance Learning.
 - Parenting Adolescents Through Social Distancing
 - Learning to Use the Toilet
- Website information: <https://www.lcps.org/ParentResourceServices>
- Summer contact number is (571) 252-1011

C. School Board Liaison.

Beth Barts

- SEAC's voice was essential in the Sprint planning for return
- Appreciates community feedback on Proposed updates to Policy 5310 on social media and email. Looks forward to hearing SEAC's recommendations for Proposed Policy.

D. Special Education Department.

Dr. Asia Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services

Dr. Patricia Nelson, Director of Special Education

- Reiterated Governor's Plan about reopening school and moving into Phase II. LCPS' plan to reopen is "conditions based versus time based".
- In-person learning experience will be "safe". Acknowledges everyone's depression, anxiety, stress, and illness. References sprint planning and stakeholders.
- Stated various approaches, in-person, blended approach, and distance learning will be considered.
- In all phases there are CDC and health guidelines in maintaining physical distancing of 6 feet or whenever possible, requires face coverings when distancing cannot be maintained, wash hands, older students wear face coverings. Children 2 and younger are not recommended to wear masks. School is doing daily health screening questions for students coming into schools. Having additional cleaning. Executive order states no more than 50 students at any time. This effects graduations.
- Discussed collaboration for opening with other Superintendents
- Discussed having ESY in-person
- Stated a few times distance learning "is the dominant method"
- Phase 3 has limits for numbers of children in a classroom.
- For the fall states that physical distancing is important, attendance is "compulsory". Planning synchronous and asynchronous learning.
- There is a focus on mental health. Referenced unified mental health team professionals and social emotional learning curriculum.

E. SEAC, School Board Liaison, and LCPS Q&A.

- Chair, Sharon Trops & Dr. Asia Jones did discuss concerns with transportation and concerns of what that might look like for in-person learning. Dr. Asia Jones stated that will look different because they have to reduce numbers. She also referenced TDLPs and that 92% of parents consented to them and 8% have been drafted. Dr. Asia Jones stated the feedback on the TDLP is "as we move forward the student's IEP will drive their instructional program."
- Dr. Asia Jones stated, "they needed to define what is functionally available." Further stated they need to be "agile" and they will do that through IEPs. She stated some of the changes to the IEP may not need the team meet or changes to IEPs may not be significant.
- Beth Barts questioned when would LCPS submit a plan to the Governor and asked when they were submitting a plan to the Governor. Dr. Asia Jones said they would have more information and deferred to the next SB meeting.
- Beth Barts asked if LCPS has enough staff for in-person learning. Dr. Asia Jones said they had enough staff hired and is asking which teachers prefer to have an in-person experience and coordinating who is "well".
- Lorraine Hightower asked about eligibility timelines. LCPS has asked families to waive and postpone IDEA eligibility. She asked since school is opening, are they going to be resuming eligibility. If it is feasible to conduct it with social distancing, they will do it.
- LCPS built a continuity of learning resources for special needs students and was recognized

by VDOE as a model.

F. Policy 5310.

Discussion

- LCPS is requesting changes to Policy 5310.
- Originally drafted changes (draft 1) were provided to SEAC by the SSS Committee on May 13, 2020.
- LCPS Administration requested to have the proposed changes sent directly to the school board for review and adoption.
- SSS Committee requested the recommendations be clarified and to follow VA Regulations and allow Policy 5310 to be reviewed by SEAC
- SEAC was provided with a second draft of Policy 5310
- SEAC Policy committee reviewed June 6 & SSS Committee will meet on June 18.
- SEAC presented Policy Recommendations to full SEAC committee meeting for a vote:
 - Recommendation #1 – Allow IEP Amendments to be made without a meeting and address community concerns. SEAC recommends that the Policy allow amendments and specifically address the concerns of the community and recommendations 2-5.
 - Recommendation #2 Add Item 1: the document shall be developed by the parents/guardians and the Special Education case manager of the child. Add: At anytime, either party may request an IEP meeting.
 - Recommendation 3: Update Notification Add “and teachers of the child are after the words “....child’s IEP team...”
 - Recommendation 4: Remove “upon Request” and Add “with every change clearly indicated within the document”.
 - Recommendation 5: Add “The ~~local education agency~~ updated to “LCPS” shall take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the parent(s)/guardian(s) understand and are able to understand any documents produced before consenting to them. This includes arranging for other modes of communication for parents with disabilities (e.g., interpreters, Braille,) or whose native language is other than English.”
 - Recommendation 6: Prior Written Notice Shall be provided prior to requesting parental consent.

Membership Vote on Policy 5310.

- *Recommendation 1:* For: Assusa, Bunkua, Elledge, Hightower, Khan, Martin, Orbach, Trof; Against: Bevan, Metz, Sajjan
- Recommendation 2: Add language “the parents, guardians, and the special education case managers of the child, in consultation with other members of the IEP team...” For: Assusa, Bevan, Bunkua, Hightower, Khan, Martin, Metz, Orbach, Sajjan, Trof. Unanimous.
- *Recommendation 2 As Amended:* For: Assusa, Bevan, Bunkua, Elledge, Hightower, Khan, Martin, Metz, Orbach, Sajjan, Trof. Unanimous.
- *Recommendation 3:* For: Assusa, Bevan, Bunkua, Elledge, Hightower, Khan, Martin, Metz, Orbach, Sajjan, Trof. Unanimous.
- *Recommendation 4:* Yes: Assusa, Bevan, Bunkua, Elledge, Hightower, Khan, Martin, Metz, Orbach, Sajjan, Trof. Unanimous.
- Recommendation 5: Remove LEA & add LCPS Yes: Assusa, Bevans, Bunkua, Elledge, Hightower, Khan, Martin, Metz, Orbach, Sajjan, Trof. Unanimous.
- *Recommendation 5 As Amended:* Yes: Assusa, Bevans, Bunkua, Elledge, Hightower, Khan, Martin, Metz, Orbach, Sajjan, Trof. Unanimous.
- *Recommendation 6:* Yes: Assusa, Bevans, Bunkua, Elledge, Hightower, Khan, Martin, Metz,

Orbach, Sajjan, Tropf. Unanimous.

IV. Meeting Adjourn 8:19 p.m.